Appl. No.   :   09/447,524
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of electronic factoring, the method comprising

providing an electronic platform for use by a plurality of buyers, vendors and at least one financial institution for factoring receivables, wherein the electronic platform is not administrated by the vendors;

receiving, in the electronic platform, application information that is provided directly from the buyers,

electronically assigning, in the electronic platform, each of the buyers a credit limit for factoring of receivables owed the vendor, said receivables being generated from the purchase of goods or services to the buyer from the vendor, wherein the credit limit indicates a transaction limit of the buyer for purchasing goods or services in exchange for a said receivable to the vendor;

electronically receiving, in the electronic platform, transaction information that describes a transaction between one of the buyers and a vendor, wherein the transaction creates a receivable for the vendor, and wherein as part of the transaction the buyer is obligated to pay the vendor a receivable payable;

electronically accessing the electronic platform for verification of credit availability for the transaction;

electronically sending the vendor a transaction authorization message; and

electronically assigning, in the electronic platform, ownership of the receivable of the vendor to a financial institution.

2-5 (Cancelled)

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising:

issuing each buyer an identifying card showing membership on the platform;

purchasing from the vendor with the identifying card; and

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accessing the buyer's credit availability via the platform with information obtained from the identifying card.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
verifying a buyer as a member of the platform; and
purchasing from the vendor.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises first searching the profile database with a search engine.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises the steps of purchasing from the vendor with a line of credit within the credit limit established by the profile database.

10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:
making payment to the platform; and
forwarding payment from the platform to the vendor.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising
making payment to the financial institution; and
forwarding payment from the financial institution to the vendor.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein additionally comprising:
accessing the platform directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and
forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:
accessing the financial institution directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and
forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

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14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:

accessing the platform for verification of credit availability;

paying the financial institution for purchase; and

forwarding payment from the financial institution to the platform and merchant bank so that the merchant bank can credit the vendor.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising

maintaining credit records on the platform; and

periodically reviewing credit records by the financial institution for buyer credit availability.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising:

creating offers by the vendor;

sending the offers to an offer database on the platform for storage;

comparing the offer database with a profile database; and

creating a list of matching offers.

17-21 (Cancelled)

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